

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany **NOFORN** **REPORT**TOPIC Military Activities in the Eighth Gds Army Area 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED 14 March 1955

25X1

REFERENCES PAGES 7 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 2 and 13 February 1955, the Nachrichten Kaserne (8504) in Weimar was occupied by a unit of approximately 500 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Thirty soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets constructed field fortifications along the fence on Duererstrasse in the east section of the installation. On 8 February, approximately 60 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets and 2 officers with rifles marched to the Schiesshaus firing range. On 10 February, a radio truck with a generator in operation was seen in the south section of the installation behind the motor vehicle sheds. Motor vehicles were also seen.

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2. Between 2 and 13 February, the Nohra Fliegerhorst (8401/8402) in Weimar was occupied by a unit of approximately 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. All AA guns had been removed from their emplacements. On 7 February, only 2 x 37-mm AA guns were seen in the AAA emplacement in the former Erziehungsheim. Approximately 15 soldiers practiced service-of-the-piece drill with these guns. On 9 February, these two guns had also been removed from this emplacement. Motor vehicles were seen.

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3. Between 5 and 15 February, the Nachrichten Kaserne in Weimar was occupied as previously by a signal unit of approximately 500 soldiers who wore blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. On 8 February, approximately 200 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets and carrying cable reels and poles marched toward Ettersberg.
4. Between 5 and 15 February, the Luetzendorf Kaserne (8503) in Weimar was occupied as previously by approximately 1,200 soldiers including

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- 2 -

200 soldiers of a signal unit, 300 soldiers of an AAA unit and 700 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. Up to 200 soldiers received training. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen.

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5. Between 5 and 15 February, the Panzer Kaserne (8507) in Weimar was occupied as previously by a rear detail of approximately 100 soldiers. No training or vehicular traffic were observed.
6. Between 5 and 15 February, the Flak Kaserne (8501) in Weimar was occupied as previously by the following units:

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- a heavy AAA unit of approximately 270 soldiers
- a heavy tank unit of approximately 300 soldiers
- a motor transport unit of approximately 300 soldiers.

Although no heavy weapons were observed, it was assumed that approximately 12 T-34/85 tanks and 8 x 85-mm AA guns were still stationed in the installation. Little training was observed.

7. Between 5 and 15 February, the Tannenberg Kaserne (8502) in Weimar was still occupied to capacity by soldiers of infantry, signal, mortar and motor transport units wearing blue-bordered black, black-bordered red and red-bordered black epaulets. No training was observed. During the last days of observation, groups of up to 40 soldiers with infantry weapons marched toward Ettersberg. 1
8. On 2 February, the barracks installation in Jena-Zwaetzen (8221) was fully lighted except for building No 4. A sentry observed wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Truck [redacted] entered the installation. At noon on 5 February, a JS-2 tank and armored personnel carrier No 609 entered the installation from the Landgrafen post training grounds. On 9 February, trucks [redacted] including an AA gun each and occupied by personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets entered the installation.

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9. At 1930 on 8 February, the following soldiers and materiel were unloaded at the Saalebahnhof in Jena: 15 boxcarloads of soldiers carrying full field equipment, 10 canvas-covered AA guns, 2 trucks with billeting equipment including [redacted] 16 trucks including [redacted] 2 field kitchens and 1 jeep. The following shipments were loaded at the station between 11 and 16 February:

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11 February: At 1900, 12 trucks [redacted] including some carrying billeting equipment and mounting machine guns and towing 4 AA guns of 70 to 80 mm, and 7 boxcarloads of personnel.

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13 February: At 1700, 4 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 5 trucks, 1 field kitchen, 1 armored personnel carrier and 6 boxcarloads of personnel, which left toward Naumburg at about 2300.

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- 3 -

16 February: From 1800 until after midnight, 6 rocket launchers, 2 JS-2 tanks, 1 JS tank chassis without turret, 15 trucks with covered numbers, 2 field kitchens on trucks, 1 jeep and 12 boxcarloads of soldiers carrying full field equipment which had come from the direction of the barracks installation, left toward Naumburg at about 0500 on 17 February. 2

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10. On 30 January, the Zeitz Forest training grounds was cordoned off by sentries wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered red epaulets with tank insignia. Between 0800 and 1300, approximately 30 T-34/85 tanks including [] were seen. Truck [] was observed at the training grounds. No tank firing was heard during the period.

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11. Between 8 and 14 February, the Artillerie Kaserne (8542) west of Friedensstrasse in Zeitz was occupied as previously by approximately 750 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including about 25 percent with tank insignia. At 1600 on 9 February, T-34/85 tanks [] were seen en route from the Zeitz Forest training grounds to the Artillerie Kaserne. At 1300 on 10 February, 4 SU-100 guns entered the installation from the direction of Drossdorf. At 2000 on 14 February, 6 tanks including T-34/85 tanks [] were seen in the installation.

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12. Between 8 and 14 February, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) east of Friedensstrasse in Zeitz was occupied by some 500 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets including about 100 soldiers with artillery insignia and approximately 350 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including about 140 soldiers with tank and a few with motor transport, artillery and signal insignia. At 0800 on 9 February, approximately 120 soldiers wearing white camouflage clothing and equipped with 3 heavy machine guns on sledges entered the installation from the direction of Golben. At 1000 on 14 February, a column of 8 canvas-covered rocket launchers including [] and 8 trucks with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia went from the Zeitz railroad station toward the Zeitz Forest. 3

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13. At 1400 on 9 February, a shipment of 10 tanks, 6 howitzers, 2 field kitchens and approximately 80 trucks including [] was seen in Weissenfels en route toward Halle. The escorting personnel carried full field equipment. When the shipment returned at about 1300 on 10 February, only 10 trucks [] and no tanks were observed. 4

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14. Between 4 and 11 February, the Infanterie Kaserne (8521) in Weissenfels was occupied by approximately 1,300 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets with artillery, motor transport and, a few with signal insignia. At 0900 on 4 February, 6 trucks [] towing 57-mm AT guns were seen at the gate on Selauerstrasse. Approximately 100 soldiers practiced with 2 x 85-mm AT guns in the barracks yard. 5

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- 4 -

At 0930 on 8 February, the following column entered the installation from the Weissenfels freight station: 7 trucks towing 7 x 37-mm AA guns, 4 trucks towing 4 range finders, and 2 trucks with billeting equipment mounting approximately 200 soldiers who wore black-bordered red epaulets. ^{Truck} [redacted] were seen. 6

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At 1000 on 11 February, approximately 225 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and 10 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns were lined up in the barracks yard.

15. Between 4 and 11 February, the Pionier Kaserne (8522) in Weissenfels was occupied as previously by approximately 1,100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including about 440 soldiers with tank and 165 soldiers with motor transport insignia. [redacted]

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[redacted] The installation also quartered a driving school of approximately 240 soldiers who wore red-bordered black and black-bordered red epaulets. At about 0900 on 4 February, T-34/85 tank [redacted] left the installation and went toward Selau. T-34/85 tank [redacted] was seen in the barracks yard. At about 1000 on 11 February, T-34/85 tank [redacted] and SP gun [redacted] were seen on the loading ramp for armored vehicles.

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16. Between 4 and 13 February, the Infanterie Kaserne in Weissenfels was occupied by approximately 1,000 soldiers, including 750 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and the others wearing red-bordered black epaulets. No training was observed. The arrival of barked round timber continued. Only 3 mortars were seen. The motor vehicle sheds were occupied by an estimated 100 vehicles. At about 1900 on 7 February, a column including 6 trucks towing AT guns, presumably of 76.2-mm, and carrying 30 soldiers each left the installation. The soldiers carried infantry weapons and full field equipment.

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17. Between 4 and 13 February, the Pionier Kaserne in Weissenfels was occupied by an estimated 1,000 soldiers, including 600 tank troopers, 250 engineer soldiers, 100 artillerymen and 50 construction engineer soldiers. No heavy weapons were observed. It was assumed, however, that the tanks were still stationed in the installation. Timber was still being shipped to the installation. 5

18. On 7 February, the Prinz-Eugen Kaserne (8462) in Rudolstadt was about 65 percent lighted. Except for the 6 x 76.2-mm AA guns in front of the installation, no heavy weapons were observed.

19. Between 15 and 19 February, the Prinz-Eugen Kaserne in Rudolstadt was occupied as previously by approximately 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 16 February, the watch tower near the installation was occupied by 3 sentries. The 6 85-mm AA guns and 4 heavy machine guns were still located in front of the installation. An undetermined number of soldiers received instruction on these guns. Trucks [redacted] entered and left the installation.

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- 5 -

20. Between 15 and 19 February. the Flak Kaserne (8461) in Rudolstadt was occupied by an estimated 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black and blue-bordered epaulets. Little training, increasing guard activity and very numerous arrivals and departures of officers were observed. Motor vehicles [redacted] entered and left the installation. 25X1
21. On 18 and 19 February. the Finanzamt (8463) in Rudolstadt was occupied to capacity by 500 to 600 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Little training was observed. Motor vehicles [redacted] entered the installation. 7 25X1
22. Between 21 January and 5 February. the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne (8481) in Saalfeld was fully lighted. The majority of the soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets and some wore black-bordered crimson, black-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets. Approximately 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets received infantry training. Approximately 20 trucks and 2 M-13 rocket launchers and up to 40 soldiers [redacted] were seen engaged in maintenance work. No pontoons were seen. 8 25X1
23. Between 1 and 3 February. the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne in Saalfeld was occupied by an estimated 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia and approximately 300 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. In addition to training with 4 M-13 rocket launchers which involved up to 200 soldiers, infantry training, driving school and physical training were observed. Motor vehicles seen in Saalfeld included [redacted] and driving school trucks [redacted] each of which was occupied by 5 soldiers wearing black-bordered red and red-bordered black epaulets. 8 25X1
24. Between 3 and 13 February. the Koenig-Georg Kaserne (8443) in Plauen was occupied by approximately 1,400 soldiers of the unit previously observed there. The personnel wore red-bordered black epaulets. Some 70 soldiers engaged in drill. On 10 February, 3 trucks towing 85-mm AT guns [redacted] entered the installation. No other heavy weapons were observed. The damaged eastern wing of the installation was being reconditioned. 25X1
25. Between 3 and 21 February. the Hindenburg Kaserne (8442) in Plauen was occupied as previously by approximately 1,800 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. Some 100 soldiers engaged in drill and physical training. The 6 x 85-mm AT guns which had been observed in the east section of the installation on 30 January belonged in the Koenig Georg Kaserne in Plauen. At about 1500 on 10 February, 12 trucks, each occupied by 15 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets, entered the installation from the direction of the Kobitzschwalde training area. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen. At 1600, the vehicles were followed by 120 soldiers with rifles. 25X1

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- 6 -

26. Between 3 and 21 February, the Kirchbach Kaserne (8841) in Plauen was occupied by 300 to 400 soldiers, including about 35 percent wearing blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia and the others wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia.

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It was rumored that the units stationed there would soon transfer to the Koenig Georg Kaserne and that the installation was to be turned over to the KVP.

there was little training at the Kobitzschwalde post training area. Up to 100 soldiers received training in firing. 9

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27. At 1530 on 18 February, the following soldiers and materiel were detained at the Oberer Bahnhof in Plauen:

38 trucks, each occupied by about 15 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and including

6 x 57-mm AT guns, 6 x 85-mm AT guns, 1 field kitchen and 1 jeep. The unit subsequently entered the Koenig-Georg Kaserne.9

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1. Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the distribution of army units of the Eighth Gds Army and elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div at the Weimar post since January 1955.

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2. Comment. For information on the occupation of the barracks installation in Zwaetzen by units of the 20th Gds Mecz Div,

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The AA units which were detained on 8 February and entrained on 11 February probably belonged to the 2504th Gds AAA Regt which, among other units, is believed to be stationed in the installation. On 13 February, a tank firing detail of the 66th Gds Mecz Regt of the division was apparently entrained, possibly for the Forst Zeitz training area. The loading of rocket launchers on 16 February cannot be explained since the 24th Gds RL Bn of the division is stationed in Zeitz.

3. Comment. The installations of the Zeitz post are occupied as previously by the known units of the 20th Gds Mecz Div.

elements of the 36th Gds Tank Regt practiced in the Zeitz Forest.

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the rocket launchers which were detained on 14 February belonged to the 316th Gds RL Regt of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps from Saalfeld and probably transferred to the Zeitz Forest for exercises.

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4. Comment. The information fails to indicate whether the shipment was loaded in, or passed through, Weissenfels.

the train carried artillery and tank details of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div which may have transferred to a training area (Letzling Heath ?) for firing practices.

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- 7 -

5. Comment. The two installations appear to be occupied as previously by units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, except for the AAA unit in the Infanterie Kaserne [redacted] and the engineer unit in the Pionier Kaserne, which were observed in these installations for the first time. [redacted] 25X1
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6. Comment. [redacted] units of the 932d AAA Bn of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div apparently returned from firing practices. The AAA Bn had been believed to be stationed in the Pionier Kaserne, however. 25X1
7. Comment. The information indicated that the Prinz-Eugen Kaserne was occupied as previously by the 497 th AAA Regt of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps. [redacted] only vaguely indicate that the 880th Engr Bn of the corps in the Flak Kaserne and the Corps Hq are located in the Finanzamt. 25X1
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8. Comment. The 316th Gds RL Regt of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps and the 45th Gds Engr Bn of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, which are believed to be stationed in the installation, are confirmed there by service color and weapons. [redacted] 25X1
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9. Comment. [redacted] The announced transfer of the units stationed in the Kirchbach Kaserne may help to clarify the occupation of the military installations in Plauen. The artillery units, which were detained on 18 February and presumably returned from firing practices at Ohrdruf, apparently belonged to the 87th Gun Arty Regt of the division although, [redacted] the equipment of the regiment does not include 57-mm AT guns. 25X1
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- These AT guns may have belonged to the U/i AT Bn of the division which, [redacted] was believed to be stationed in Rudolstadt in the fall of 1953. If this assumption is correct, the battalion may be stationed in the Koenig-Georg Kaserne with the Gun Arty Regt. 25X1

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